

Emergency Medical Services Division

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Reauthorization of the Medic One/EMS Levy

Our Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system provides essential life saving services to the people in Seattle and King County. With an international reputation for innovation and excellence, the King County Medic One/EMS system offers uniform medical care regardless of location, incident circumstances, day of the week, or time of day. It has the highest reported survival rates in the treatment of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients across the nation.

The Medic One/EMS system is funded with a 6-year EMS levy. The current levy rate of \$.30 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value (AV) was approved by voters of King County in November 2007 and began collection in January 2008. This 30-cent levy rate means that a family of a \$400,000 home pays \$120 a year for Medic One services.

The current EMS levy expires on December 31, 2013. Therefore, a **reauthorization of the EMS levy** is necessary to provide a seamless transition into the new levy period. Under state law, the levy can be reauthorized for 6 years, 10 years, or for an indefinite amount of time, at a maximum rate of \$.50 per \$1,000 AV. Historically, King County has never exceeded \$.30 per \$1,000 AV, and the average length of each levy has been 6 years.

Role of the EMS Advisory Task Force

King County Ordinance #15862 created an EMS Advisory Task Force to develop "interjurisdictional agreement on an updated EMS strategic plan and financing package for the next levy funding period." The *Task Force* will work with EMS Stakeholders to review the needs of the system, and subsequently endorse programmatic policies and a levy rate that the voters of King County can support. Representing those who oversee, authorize and are served by the system, the *Task Force* will be invaluable in determining the right proposal, and the financial implications it may have for their jurisdictions.

Task Force financial and programmatic recommendations are due to the King County Executive and King County Council no later than September 15, 2012, and the Medic One/EMS 2014-2019 Strategic Plan is due January 1, 2013.

The priority of the levy reauthorization process is to ensure Medic One remains an adequately funded, regional tiered system, based on its existing successful medical model, and committed to innovative and science-based programs and strategies that meet the needs and expectations of our changing community. The *EMS Advisory Task Force* will provide the forum for discussing these issues.

Advisory Task Force Meetings:

The *EMS Advisory Task Force* is scheduled to meet four times. The regular meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

1 pm – 3 pm

Seattle Joint Training Facility (9401 Myers Way S, Seattle.)

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

1 pm – 3 pm

Bellevue City Hall (450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue)

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

1 pm – 3 pm

Community Center at Mercer View (8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island)

Thursday, July 26, 2012

1 pm – 3 pm

Tukwila Community Center (12424 42nd Ave S, Tukwila.)

Subcommittees of the *EMS Advisory Task Force*

Four subcommittees, representing the Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), Regional Services (RS) and Finance program areas, have been created to complete the bulk of the system program and cost analysis. Recommendations regarding current and projected program needs will be generated through these subcommittees and subsequently presented to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* for review and endorsement.

Each subcommittee of the *EMS Advisory Task Force* will meet monthly starting in November 2011 and concluding in June 2012. Should the need arise, subcommittees may meet more frequently than once a month. Membership of each subcommittee includes *EMS Task Force* representatives, EMS Stakeholders with vested interests, subject matter experts from all aspects of the Medic One/EMS system and other interested parties.

Approval process

Prior to being placed on the ballot for voter approval, the Medic One/EMS 2014-2019 Strategic Plan and recommended EMS levy rate must be approved by the councils of all cities over 50,000 in population and the King County Council. There are nine cities over 50,000, including Auburn, Bellevue, Federal Way, Kent, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, Seattle, and Shoreline. Representatives from each of the nine cities are serving on the *EMS Advisory Task Force*.

Contact information

Helen Chatalas is our Medic One/EMS levy planner and the central point of contact for the levy planning process. If you are interested in participating in this process, would like to be updated on policies being debated by the Task Force and subcommittees, or simply have questions about the levy process, please contact her at Helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov.